

# MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR'S FOREST HEALTH OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Thursday, December 11, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.  
Payson Public Library, Conference Room - 328 North McLane Road, Payson AZ

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- 1) Call to Order Meeting began 9:33 am  
-Welcome from Diane Vosick  
-Introductions
- 2) Approval of minutes of the 11.13.03 meeting -- Approved 9:40 am
- 3) Subcommittee Reports This was reported on during the retreat (December 10, 2003).
  - a. Utilization & Commerce – Marty Moore
  - b. Zoning & Implementation – Mayor Joe Donaldson
  - c. Legislation – Mike Sommerville
  - d. Education – Mike Neal (volunteered)
- 4) Rob Davis (PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the web)
  - a. Forest Energy Corporation, Show Low
  - b. 'Pellet Energy Systems – An Economical Solution for Heating & Cooling Systems'

Comments:

  - Pellet plant in Show Low has been there since 1991.
  - This could be a good industry for Arizona because it does not exist in the United States.
  - It is difficult to know what volume of wood will be coming out of the forest in 10-20 years.

Questions:

  - Is there something this committee can do to help someone like yourself (a small business man)? (There is no incentive for heat with biomass right now.)
  - What about adding a tax credit for those who built homes with this technology? (Yes, this would be good for the private sector.)
  - How far away can you go from your plant and make it still economical? (75miles is too far.)
  - Does it require outside water source? (No, only fire protection water.)
  - What is the air pollution like when burning pellets? (We can comply with anything ADEQ requires. It is a very clean product. The ash has no carbon in it.)
  - If a school wanted to convert to this type of heating, what would it cost? (The hydronic systems are the easiest and they cost twice as much as conventional heating, but half as much as with chips.)
  - Where are the actual systems manufactured? (Europe, Canada, and the United States.)
  - What kind of product do you need (ie: what about small trees or slash)? (We can pretty much use anything, it just depends on what it costs to get the material into the plant.)
  - How can people get in contact with you? (Look at the handout for address and phone number.)
  - What is the employment base? (28 people.)
- 5) Arizona Department of Commerce PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the web
  - a. Joe Yuhas, Deputy Director
  - b. Tom Belshe, Asst. Deputy Director
  - c. 'Why You Support Us'

Comments:

- The Department of Commerce supports the coalition's efforts because it is directly linked to the economic development of the state.
- Note how the 8 strategic initiatives can help support this council.
- *Growing Smarter* is an un-funded mandate.

Questions:

- Have you ever looked at construction or real estate in the rural communities based on forest products (ie: extraction to support the amenity)? (I have only been in this position for 11 months, but it appears we are moving in that direction.)
- Is there a potential link between this presentation and the one that came prior? (Working with the Department of Energy puts us in a good position to make the progress we are looking for.)
- Is there some way we can tap into the research department for the work we need to have done? (yes.)
- When are you going to name your area reps? (We are in negotiations.)

6) Rick Covington (PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the web)

- a. Student Conservation Association, Oakland, CA
- b. 'The SCA-engaging young people in Wildland Fire efforts'

Questions:

- Are you a C3 or C6 organization? (C3.)
- What is the cost to the hosting agency? (A 3 month intern is \$60 per week for food and over 3 months is \$160 per week. Housing and vehicles will cost more. SCA fund raises for the administrative cost and the host agency pays for the direct costs.)
- What does it take to establish a partnership? (Sitting down with the appropriate agency to do that... such as the Department of Land.)
- Can you make a relationship with the county or city? (Yes, any municipality.)
- How can we help you market SCA? (Possibly on websites to help spread the word.)
- Can SCA help with the GIS database we learned about yesterday? (Possibly, let look into it.)

7) Lew Levenson

- a. Arizona Partnership for Forest Health
- b. 'A View From on the Ground – Not 60,000 Feet'

Comments:

- Think about top down vs. bottom up analysis.
- Two goals: a healthy forest and a defensible home/community.
- Two funding sources: public funding and from people's pockets.
- We need to focus on getting the word out about protecting our homes and communities from fire via T.V., radio, newspapers and eye-to-eye contact.
- Think about setting up evaluation criteria for measuring our progress.
- This may be an opportunity for the League of Citizen's Towns.
- Change the focus to the results rather than the activities.

8) Michael Neal (PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the web)

- a. APS
- b. Issues and Solutions for Electric Utilities in the Urban Wildland Interface

Comments:

- It is very important to keep the trees out from under the power lines.
- APS needs this Council to support science-based research

- We need an MOU signed so APS can use best management practices for maintenance of corridors.
- There are issues with easements.
- Diane made request for justifications.

Questions:

- What is the problem with using the best management practices?

9) Follow up on outstanding issues

- a. Community Prioritization
  - i. Kirk Rowdabaugh **Nothing at this time.**
- b. Western Mogollon Plateau Greater Ecosystem Assessment
  - i. Taylor McKinnon **Update on Forest Ecosystem Restoration Analysis in Tom Sisk's lab at NAU. The importance of landscape scale analysis. It is a three-part activity: data collection, development of models, and development of a decision-support tool that allows us to ask questions about changes in the landscape. There is a planning team in Flagstaff that are in the process of thinking about how to develop a process by which to use these tools to develop a landscape assessment that may get at results. We are asking for an endorsement from this group for this process to keep it moving forward. The intention is to lead to on-the-ground projects. Motion made to support this effort. Seconded.**

10) Present DRAFT recommendations of the Oversight Council (**Addressed on December 10**)

11) Future meeting dates and locations

- a. January 8<sup>th</sup> Phoenix @ County Supervisor's Association
- b. February 12<sup>th</sup> Phoenix @ County Supervisor's Association
- c. March 11<sup>th</sup> Phoenix @ County Supervisor's Association
- i. Accommodations

12) Next Steps **There should be a product by the first of January 2004.**

13) Call to the Public

- a. **A public welcome to Payson**

14) Adjourn

*Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2003 - Governor's Forest Health Oversight Council*

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CO-CHAIRS

Representative O'Halleran – Arizona House of Representatives

Diane Vosick – Ecological Restoration Institute